
SUBSTITUTE SENATE BILL 6437

State of Washington

64th Legislature

2016 Regular Session

By Senate Law & Justice (originally sponsored by Senators Roach, O'Ban, Schoesler, Warnick, Brown, Honeyford, and Benton)

1 AN ACT Relating to dangerous drone operations near correctional
2 facilities; adding a new section to chapter 9A.76 RCW; creating a new
3 section; and prescribing penalties.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that technological
6 advances have provided new unique equipment that may be utilized in a
7 variety of purposes. These technological advances often outpace
8 statutory protections. Unmanned aerial vehicles, commonly known as
9 drones, may be used for nefarious purposes such as the delivery of
10 drugs, weapons, or other contraband to state prison inmates. The
11 legislature finds the private use of drones near state prisons are a
12 danger to public safety. It is the intent of the legislature to
13 ensure that private drones may not be used near state prisons by
14 making their specific use criminal.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 9A.76
16 RCW to read as follows:

17 (1) A person is guilty of a dangerous drone operation if the
18 person knowingly operates a drone over or within one thousand feet of
19 the perimeter of a correctional facility, as defined in RCW
20 72.09.015, without authorization from the department of corrections.

1 (2) A dangerous drone operation is a class C felony.

2 (3) This section does not apply to drone operations by federal,
3 state, or local governmental agencies.

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